

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Agriculture		2018	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research		5140	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/16/2015	04/16/2017	
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date	
No	7USC 5405		
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
7USC 5405; Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act	04/04/1996	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed Meetings and Dates	17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates	17d. Total Meetings and Dates
No Meetings			

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee was established to ensure intergovernmental cooperation in research activities relating to agricultural air quality. The Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on his/her role in providing oversight and coordination on agricultural air quality. It meets two to three times a year to discuss agricultural production and air quality in different geographic regions, thereby improving members' understanding of local problems/issues.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The members represent all NRCS regions within the United States. In addition, members represent the following disciplines: agricultural production, agricultural industry, agricultural air quality research, and the health sciences/regulators/public interest.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets 2-3 times annually to review scientific research related to agricultural air quality and develop recommendations to address current issues. Subcommittees meet between meetings by teleconference on an as needed basis. In addition to providing recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on research priorities (e.g., particulate matter, odors, and ozone) and associated funding, the Committee has developed recommendations at the request of EPA on agricultural burning, voluntary programs and emission reduction credits. The Committee has also carried out a broad survey on high priority emission factors which is being used in conjunction with recommended research needs and priorities.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This committee was mandated from the 1996 FAIR Act (Farm Bill), and has been in existence since then, overseen by the USDA-NRCS. The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force advises the Secretary of Agriculture on his/her role in oversight and coordination related to agricultural air quality, ensuring governmental policies issued to address agricultural air pollution problems are scientifically sound and economically feasible. Current policies are being revised based on new or proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone. In addition, climate change and GHG guidelines, policies and regulations are under development.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The meetings are open to the public and there are no plans to have closed meetings.

21. Remarks

The Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality has been beneficial in making recommendations on research and priorities for research in addition to making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that, relative to air quality, agriculture is regulated based on sound science.

Designated Federal Officer

Greg Zwicke DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abernathy, Kevin	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Cochrane, Brian	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
Collett, Jeff	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Academia	Representative Member
Cory, Cynthia	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Cunha, Manuel	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Green, Kelley	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Hough, Merlyn	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Regulatory	Representative Member
Kreher, Hal	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
Leytem, April	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Research Soil Scientist, ARS - Government USDA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
May, Gerry	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
McCormick, Patrick	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
Moody, Lara	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Norman, Bill	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Petersen, Chris	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
Purswell, Anissa	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Quarles, Clint	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Government -Kentucky Depart of Ag; Legal Division	Representative Member
Rahman, Shafiqur	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Academia	Representative Member
Rule, Ana	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Academia	Representative Member
Sheikh, Samir	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Regulatory	Representative Member
Silva, Phil	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Res Phys Scnts; Government- ARS, USDA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Slutsky, Jon	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Producers	Representative Member
Stanier, Charles	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Academia	Representative Member
Tan, Marguerite	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Tricarico, Juan	01/27/2016	02/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Weinheimer, Ben	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Industry	Representative Member
Weller, Jason	12/04/2012	01/28/2025	Chief, NRCS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Zhang, Yuanhui	01/27/2016	01/27/2018	Academia	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 27

Narrative Description

The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force has been created in accordance with Section 391 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996, which directs the

Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, to establish a task force to address agricultural air quality issues. The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) was established to comply with Congress and consists of leaders in farming, industry, health, and science. In 1996, Congress found that various studies have alleged that agriculture is a source of PM10 emissions and that many of these studies have often been based on erroneous data. Congress also cited ongoing research by the Department of Agriculture and that federal policy, in regard to air pollution, be based on sound scientific findings that are subject to adequate peer review and take into account economic feasibility. The Secretary of Agriculture was charged to ensure that Departmental federal air quality research not report erroneous data. The AAQTF has been inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

No new recommendations in FY2018. The AAQTF has been inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

A primary focus of this task force is to make sure that sound science is applied to regulatory decisions. When sound science is applied, there is a greater probability that regulations are warranted and appropriate. The end result besides environmental benefits is the benefit that the cost was appropriate and achieved the goal. It is difficult to determine a cost savings for this result.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

62

Number of Recommendations Comments

No new recommendations in FY2018. The AAQTF has been inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

39%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

No new recommendations in FY2018. The AAQTF has been inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

39%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

No new recommendations in FY2018. The AAQTF has been inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

AAQTF members are typically provided feedback on their recommendations during the

meeting following their submission of the recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The recommendations related to research priorities are being factored into multi-year research plans. The details are not known at this time.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A